

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Litman on 08/31/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Replace claim 1 with the following:

Claim 1. An automated gaming system comprising a gaming table, a mechanical card shuffling device associated with the gaming table, a card reader in the mechanical card shuffling device communicating read card information to at least one processor and an upright video display panel comprising:

the mechanical card shuffling device shuffling physical cards and reading the physical cards to form an electronic file of an order of a randomized set of cards;

a table having an upper surface, the upper surface having a video display surface that provides a video display for at least two different player positions;

at least one processor in information communication with the upright video display panel and the video display surface, the processor or processors directing video display on both the upright video display panel and the video display surface, and providing game rules for the play of at least one casino table card game without the use of physical cards on the table;

wherein a card reader establishes the electronic file of the order of the randomized set of cards and provides information from the electronic file that enables the main game processor to provide virtual cards to players based upon the order of cards identified in the electronic file.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-32 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. Claim 1 distinguishes over the prior art of record in that the Applicant specifically claims an automated gaming system comprising a gaming table, a mechanical card shuffling device associated with the gaming table, a card reader in the mechanical card shuffling device communicating read card information to at least one processor and an upright video display panel; the mechanical card shuffling device shuffling physical cards and reading the physical cards to form an electronic file of an order of a randomized set of cards; and wherein a card reader establishes the electronic file of the order of the randomized set of cards and provides information from the electronic file that enables the main game processor to provide virtual cards to players based upon the order of cards identified in the electronic file. These teachings of the Applicant's claims are not taught in the prior art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Pinheiro whose telephone number is (571)270-1350. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM - 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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